Texas Instruments Personal Computer

Fall 1982, No. 6

User's Newsletter

PLATO Courseware to be Available for TI Home Computer

Texas Instruments and Control Data Corporation have announced an agreement that will make available a comprehensive series of PLATO computer-based education courseware for the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A Home Computer.

Control Data was a pioneer in developing computer-based education with the PLATO system. After 20 years, PLATO courseware includes thousands of hours of integrated instruction materials.

The agreement with Texas Instruments encompasses 430 programs in 108 courseware packages developed for elementary- and secondary-school levels. This library is widely regarded as the most complete and comprehensive available. Using PLATO courseware on the TI-99/4A will make these established educational materials economically practical for many classrooms and homes.

Control Data will convert its Basic Skills and High School Skills curriculums to run on the 5¼-inch diskettes used by the Texas Instruments Home Computer. Texas Instruments will manufacture and distribute the diskettes in the United States and in selected international markets.

This PLATO courseware spans grades kindergarten through 12 with a wide range of computer-based instruction in reading, math, and language arts, including poetry and literature. It also encompasses physics, chemistry, earth sciences, and biology as well as social studies such as geography, economics, behavioral science, political science, and history. The materials are designed to provide self-paced and individualized instruction for students whose needs range from remedial help to advanced instruction.

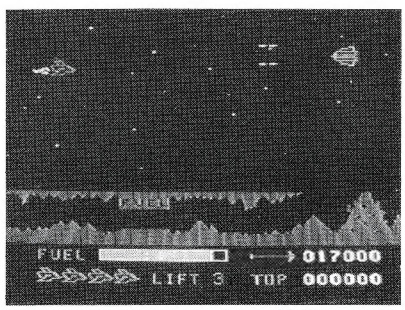
The initial packages will be available in the first quarter of 1983.

Newest Software Packages from TI

Parsec

The exciting new Parsec *Solid State*™ Cartridge space game enables you to battle alien ships on a planet in outer space. You also have the power to control the movement, landing, and refueling of your vessel as it goes through refueling tunnels. Up to seven different types of alien ships can attack, as you must avoid an asteroid belt to advance to the next level.

Parsec features speed/sensitivity control, pause capability, and speech to tell you the current status of condition. A one-player game, the Parsec cartridge (model number PHM 3112) has a suggested retail price of $39.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers and *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer are optional.



The exciting new Parsec space game cartridge allows you to outmaneuver and outwit an onslaught of alien ships.

Addison Wesley Computer Math Games II (Grades 2-9)

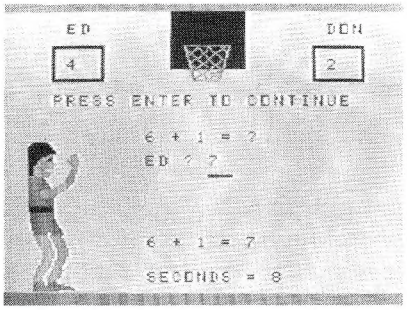
The Computer Math Games II cartridge was developed by Texas Instruments in conjunction with Addison Wesley Publishing Company, a leading educational publisher. Designed with progressive levels of difficulty for grades 2-9, this cartridge features five different games. Each incorporates color graphics and music to drill the student on basic mathematical functions including exponents.

Entitled "Your Number's Up," "Math Basketball," "Match Up," "Tic-Tac Math,"

(see NEWEST SOFTWARE, page 2)

Newest Software Cont'd

and "Horse Race," the games are designed for one to three players. The Computer Math Games II cartridge (model number PHM 3083) has a suggested retail price of $39.95.



The Computer Math Games II cartridge features five games for grade levels 1-9.

Addison Wesley Computer Math Games VI (Grades 2-9)

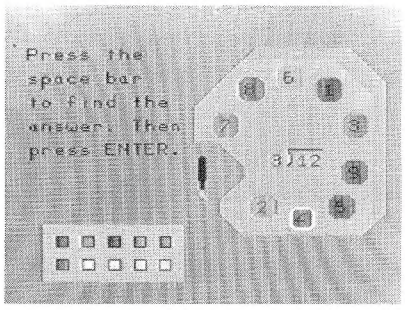
The Computer Math Games VI cartridge was developed by Texas Instruments in conjunction with Addison Wesley Publishing Company. It was created for students in grades two through nine to practice using whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers in a game format.

The four games are "Math Asteroids," "Around the Schoolyard," "Math Basketball," and "Math Triangles." Designed for one or two players, the Computer Math Games VI cartridge (model number PHM 3088) has a suggested retail price of $39.95.

Scott, Foresman Division 1 (Grades 3-5)

The Division 1 cartridge stimulates the study of basic division facts with colorful graphics, challenging drills, and encouraging rewards. It was developed by Texas Instruments in conjunction with Scott, Foresman Electronic Publishing and it was designed for grades 3-5.

With Division 1, Texas Instruments continues its tradition of applying innovative *Solid State Speech*™ technology to educational activities. The optional *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer (sold separately) adds the features of computer speech to the graphics and musical sounds of your computer. The Division 1 cartridge (model number PHM 3093) has a suggested retail price of $39.95.



The Division 1 cartridge stimulates the study of basic division facts for grades 3-5.

Scott, Foresman Reading Flight (Grades 5-7)

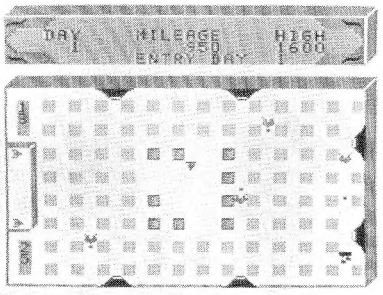
Developed by Texas Instruments in conjunction with Scott, Foresman Electronic Publishing, the Reading Flight cartridge improves a student's skills in classifying, summarizing, and outlining information. It is geared for grades 5-7.

The cartridge contains four colorfully depicted stories and three practice drills. Three of the four stories concentrate on one reading skill each while the fourth story employs all three skills. The Reading Flight cartridge (PHM 3082) has a suggested retail price of $54.95.

Chisholm Trail

Relive the excitement of the era before the railroad came to Texas. With the Chisholm Trail cartridge, you become the foreman on a cattle drive attempting to get your herd to market. As you travel the Chisholm Trail, you try to outmaneuver and eliminate cattle rustlers who are after your herd. You also have to watch out for wranglers who try to put their brands on your cattle.

A one-player game, Chisholm Trail is designed to provide challenge for all members of the family. The cartridge (model number PHM 3110) has a suggested retail price of $39.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers are recommended.



With the Chisholm Trail cartridge, you become the foreman on a treacherous cattle drive.

Personal Tax Plan

Developed by Aardvark Software, Inc., this Pascal-based diskette performs comprehensive, tedious tax planning calculations within seconds. The package allows you to enter a variety of income and expense items and to isolate the tax effects of changes in one or more of these variables.

Results can be printed in a letter format suitable for permanent records. Plus, you can save your tax plans on a diskette for later use.

The Personal Tax Plan package (model number PHD 5077) has a suggested retail price of $99.95. It requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller card* or unit and TI Disk Memory Drive), the P-Code card* or unit, and the Memory Expansion card* or unit — all sold separately. An RS232 Interface card* or unit and compatible printer are optional.

*Requires a Peripheral Expansion System

(see NEWEST SOFTWARE, page 3)

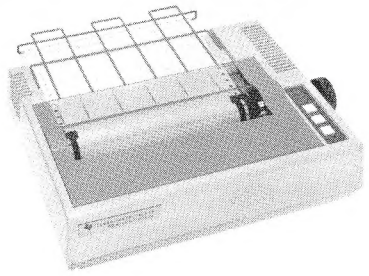
Texas Instruments Introduces the TI-99/4 Impact Printer

The TI-99/4 Impact Printer couples innovative design and precision manufacturing with long life, low cost, lightweight, and superior performance. When it's connected to the Home Computer via the TI RS232 Interface peripheral, the TI-99/4 Impact Printer can provide printed copies of your programs and data to aid you in revising long programs or maintaining files of programs and results. The TI-99/4 Impact Printer can print screens or displays from certain *Solid State*™ Cartridges, and it can print on tractor feed paper. In addition, the printer can be used in either the Text Mode or the Graphics Mode, in which hard copies of illustrations, graphs, charts, and other visuals are produced on the printer under software control.

The TI-99/4 Impact Printer features a speed of 80 characters per second and a 9x1 dot-matrix printhead. The printer also offers 40-, 66-, 80-, and 132-column printing widths. Characters can be printed in any desired size — normal, enlarged, condensed, etc. Versatile software commands enable you to control a variety of features.

The TI-99/4 Impact Printer:

- Prints text and, in the Graphics Mode, graphic data. In graphics printing, both normal-density (480 dots/line) and dual-density (960 dots/line) modes are available.
- Prints 40 enlarged characters per line, 66 mixed character widths per line, 80 normal characters per line, or 132 condensed characters per line, all with programmable column widths.
- Has a top-of-form function for paper lengths of either 11 or 12 inches.
- Can be set to automatically skip over paper perforations.



The TI-99/4 Impact Printer can produce hard copies of illustrations, graphs, charts, and other visuals.

- Has programmable line spacing, vertical and horizontal tabulation, and a programmable buzzer.
- Prints 80 characters per second bidirectionally.
- Has eight international character sets selectable by software or DIP switch.

To insure problem free interface with the TI-99/4A Home Computer, the TI-99/4 Impact Printer also features an RS232 Interface peripheral with 2K buffer, interface cable, pre-set DIP switches, and a manual written specifically for the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

It must be attached to the computer via the TI RS232 Interface card* or unit (sold separately). The Texas Instruments TI-99/4 Impact Printer (model number PHP 2500) has a suggested retail price of $750.

*Requires a Peripheral Expansion System

The Personal Computer User's Newsletter is published by the Texas Instruments Personal Computer Division, P.O. Box 53, Lubbock, Texas 79408. All correspondence concerning this newsletter should be mailed to the above address.

Newest Software Cont'd

Future Software

The following software packages will be available in the fourth quarter of 1982:

The Scott Foresman *Reading On* cartridge teaches the skills required to understand maps, graphs, and schedules. It is designed for students in grades 2-4. The *Alpiner* cartidge is a speaking climber game featuring different obstacles to avoid while climbing the world's tallest mountains.

The *Milliken Math Sequences* consist of eight cartridges for grades 1-8. It covers the subjects of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, integers, fractions, decimals, and percents. Each cartridge will be sold separately. The *Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC)* series contains valuable math and science exercises for grades 1-8. Eleven diskette-based packages are entitled: Metric and Counting, Elementary Economics, Elementary Math & Science, Astronomy, Word Beginnings, Exploring, Math Practice, Science Facts, Natural Science, Social Science, and Teacher's Tool Box. Each package will be sold separately.

*Microsoft*** *Multiplan*** is a spread sheet calculation program consisting of a cartridge and diskette that can be used as a personal productivity tool for data analysis. *TI Writer* utilizes a cartridge and diskette to implement word processing on the TI-99/4A.

All of the previous packages will be reviewed in greater detail as they become available.

**trademark of the Microsoft Corporation

Get Your FREE Texas Instruments *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer

Now you can add the exciting dimension of speech to your TI Home Computer at no extra cost! Buy either six *Solid State*™ Cartridges or two TI Software Albums (up to three cartridges in a convenient storage package) and receive FREE the *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer, a $149.95 value.* This offer is good from September 1, 1982 through January 31, 1983. Coupons and proof of purchase must be received by February 15, 1983. A coupon is attached for your convenience.

The Speech Synthesizer reproduces human speech electronically, accurately, and realistically. It plugs directly into the Home Computer's built-in connectors without external cables.

Utilization of the Speech Synthesizer requires either a cartridge programmed for speech, such as many of the educational cartridges, or the Terminal Emulator II cartridge. With its text-to-speech capability, the Terminal Emulator II cartridge gives your computer a virtually unlimited vocabulary whereby you can listen to information utility data or have the computer say anything within your own program.

The preprogrammed cartridges are noticeably enhanced by speech. For example, in educational packages, speech provides additional help and positive reinforcement to stimulate the learning process. In games, encouragement and status of events are verbally relayed.

Don't miss out on this $149.95 value. Get your FREE Speech Synthesizer and enjoy the features of a "speaking" computer.

*Suggested Retail Price

The following products can use the *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer:

MODEL	NAME
EDUCATIONAL/PERSONAL ENRICHMENT	
Scott, Foresman Reading and Math Packages	
PHM 3015	Early Reading
PHM 3043	Reading Fun
PHM 3027	Addition and Subtraction 1
PHM 3028	Addition and Subtraction 2
PHM 3029	Multiplication 1
PHM 3049	Division 1
Texas Instruments Packages	
PHD 5030	Speak & Spell™ Program
PHD 5031	Speak & Math™ Program
PHD 5042	Spell Writer
MECC (Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium)	
PHD 5078	Metric and Counting
Scholastic Packages	
PHM 3059	Scholastic Spelling—Level 3
PHM 3060	Scholastic Spelling—Level 4
PHM 3061	Scholastic Spelling—Level 5
PHM 3062	Scholastic Spelling—Level 6
ENTERTAINMENT	
Texas Instruments Packages	
PHM 3056	Alpiner
PHM 3112	Parsec
PHD 5002	TI-Trek
PHD 5025	Saturday Night Bingo
OTHER APPLICATION PROGRAMS	
PHM 3011	Speech Editor
PHM 3026	Extended BASIC
PHM 3035	Terminal Emulator II
PHM 3055	Editor/Assembler
PHM 3058	Mini-Memory
PHD 5075	Text-to-Speech (English)

Texas Instruments FREE Speech Synthesizer Offer

When you buy either six *Solid State*™ Cartridges or two software albums for the TI-99/4A Home Computer, you will receive FREE the *Solid State Speech*™ Synthesizer, a $149.95 value. This offer is good September 1, 1982 through January 31, 1983. Coupons and proof of purchase must be received by February 15, 1983.

To receive your free Speech Synthesizer, complete this coupon, enclose actual receipt(s) (no photo copies) and the end flaps with the number 1043601-1 or 1037111-1 from each cartridge box, and send to:

FREE SPEECH
P.O. Box 10546
Lubbock, Texas 79408

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

A Monthly LOGO Newsletter for Teachers

The National LOGO Exchange is a monthly newsletter which provides teachers with practical suggestions for implementing the powerful LOGO computer language in the classroom. The key word is **practical**, because the newsletter's emphasis is on doing. Published from September through May and mailed First Class, *The National LOGO Exchange* acts as a forum for the exchange of ideas, philosophies, and techniques of teaching and using LOGO.

You can read what teachers across the country are doing with LOGO and get ideas about what *you* can do. Columns by well-known professional educators are featured each month, as well as practical articles submitted by subscribers. Book reviews and LOGO program evaluations are also important parts of the newsletter.

The National LOGO Exchange is an excellent reference for any school where LOGO is used. Join the LOGO family and subscribe now!

Fill out and mail to:
The National LOGO Exchange
Attn: Gene Stoneman
Box 5341
Charlottesville, VA 22905

YES! I want to subscribe to *The National LOGO Exchange*. Please enter my subscription for ____ 1 year for $25.00 or ____ 2 years for $45.00. I understand the newsletter is published monthly, September through May, and is mailed to me First Class.

____ Payment enclosed by personal check.

____ Credit card ____ Mastercard ____ VISA

Card number and expiration date: _____

Bank which issued your card: _____

Mastercard bank number: _____

Your authorized signature: _____

____ Please bill my school system.

____ Purchase order attached.

____ Billing information and authorization on attached sheet.

Name: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

99'er TI-Fest Home Computer Show Held October 22-24

99'er Magazine™ held its first 99'er TI-Fest — an exhibition, trade show, conference, and video game competition featuring the TI-99/4A Home Computer, hand-held programmable systems, calculators, and electronic learning aids, as well as TI-compatible software and peripherals from independent developers. The event took place October 22-24, 1982, in San Francisco at the Civic Center's Brooks Hall, a 90,000 square foot facility. It marks the first occurrence of a microcomputer show that was organized around the concept of a Living Magazine℠ — a human-engineered floor layout, decor, and seminar/demonstration schedule that guides each attendee through a flexible, self-paced series of learning and enrichment activities according to individual interests and level of experience.

The implementation of this show concept — with its self-contained microworlds of Education Land, Computer Gaming Land, and 99'er Land (small business, professional, and home management) — was modeled on the content and physical layout of *99'er Magazine*, an independent publication for users of the TI-99/4A computer.

For additional information, contact *99'er Magazine*, 1500 Valley River Drive/Suite 250, Eugene, OR 97401. Telephone: (503) 485-8796.

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℠ a servicemark of Emerald Valley Publishing Co.

Technical Data Manual Now Available

A Technical Data Manual for the TI-99/4A is now available. The manual includes sections on the following subjects: General Description of the TI-99/4A Home Computer, I/O Pin Description, Memory Allocation, CRU Allocation, Interrupt Handling, Electrical Characteristics, and a Glossary. The manual also includes the following illustrations: TI-99/4A System Block Diagram, I/O Read Timing, I/O Write Timing, CRU Timing, Connector Pin Identification Diagram, TI-99/4A Logic Board Component Location Diagram, and TI-99/4A Schematic Diagram.

To get your copy of the Technical Data Manual, send $15.00 plus applicable sales tax, and $2.00 postage and handling to:

Texas Instruments
Incorporated
Dealer Parts Department
P.O. Box 53
M/S 5833
Lubbock, Texas 79408

Users' Groups Corner

The number of TI Users' Groups continues to increase with the addition of two more active groups — one in Canada and the other in Texas. These Users' Groups and others around the world are exceedingly helpful to those interested in sharing technical information, keeping up-to-date on new hardware and software, and exchanging thoughts and ideas.

The new Users' Groups are:

CANADA
Carleton Home Computer Users' Group
Mr. B. Tyler
John Street
R. R. #2
Stittsville, Ontario
Canada, KOA 3GO
(613) 836-2711 (home)
(613) 596-7288 (office)

TEXAS
JSC Users' Group (JUG)
Lewis H. Harris
15727 El Camino Real
Houston, Texas 77062

Note the address and telephone changes for the following Users' Group:

MISSOURI
99/4 Users' Group of St. Louis
Mark Sumner
4127 Quincy
St. Louis, MO 63116
(314) 481-6230

Non-TI products are listed in this newsletter for your information. Their inclusion does not represent an endorsement by TI, and lists are not necessarily complete.

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The following three articles were written by the Presidents of our National and International Users' Groups.

Local Users-Groups Provide Valuable Services

by Charles La Fara
President
International 99/4 Users-Group
P.O. Box 67
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 787-8521

When Joe Nichols and I formed the first Users-Group dedicated to the Texas Instruments 99/4 computer, in September of 1980, we never dreamed our organization would grow to the 16,000 worldwide members we have today. (Editor's Note: The International Users Group also has a program exchange library with over 600 user-written programs.) Like many of the new TI-99/4A owners today, we felt alone and confused. There just didn't seem to be any real source of information to help us quench our burning desire for additional knowledge of our wonderful new machines. Well, today things are much different.

Over the past two years numerous local Users-Groups have been formed in major cities around the world. Ranging in size from 20 to over 100 members, these local User-Groups provide a valuable service to thousands of 99/4 and 99/4A owners. Each local Users-Group normally holds monthly meetings which are informative for both the novice computer owner and the full blown computer guru. Discussions usually include new products, programming advances, software demonstrations, and hardware interfacing. Several of the larger groups try to have a guest speaker at each meeting to cover a specific topic of interest for those who attend.

So don't feel left out! If you live in an area where there is a local Users-Group, join up. Dues are reasonable, most under $20.00. If your area doesn't have a local Users-Group, then consider starting one.

For a complete list of active local User-Groups around the world, you can write:

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 10508 M/S 5890
Lubbock, TX 70408
Attention: Users Group
Coordinator

You, Your TI-99/4A, and Tomorrow

by Duane B. Fischer
President

99/4 Users of America
5028 Merit Drive

Flint, MI 48506
(313) 736-3774

It seems that many users are very worried about the future of their investment in a Texas Instruments Home Computer system. They have anxiety attacks about software development and chew their nails off wondering if their system will become obsolete in six months. Their fears are real and the breakneck speed of new technology development does nothing to quench their worries. What we had five years ago now looks more like stone knives and bear skins than it does a computer!

Texas Instruments is producing better than ten times a day what they were one year ago! They have made a firm commitment to the computer and its related hardware and software. Nearly every day I hear from a new third-party developer who wants to market a new piece of equipment. The problem is not going to be a shortage of good quality products, but sorting out the desirable from the trashcan rejects! TI has tried hard to make new hardware compatible with existing equipment, and that is encouraging.

It will be up to our user group, among others, to help you make right decisions as to what you should purchase to achieve your desired goals. It is imperative that this information be honest and without bias, as users deserve to know the truth! We have endeavored to do this in the past and will continue to do so in the future. The rapid sales of the console have triggered a virtual flood of software development. Naturally, some of us will be losers if we do not investigate the product prior to reaching for our checkbook and ink pen. We will review critically any software or hardware product that is sent to us on a promotional basis. However, we will only print the truth about it, be that favorable or not!

I foresee the role of the user group as one of being a clearing house for information, a source of programming assistance, and a consumer protection watchdog. Today I helped a user in Ohio get his Editor/Assembler to load Tombstone City, a blind user in New York to write a speech program, and a user in California to obtain desired software programs. If local user groups across the nation would share information more readily with us, all of us would benefit greatly. TI invented the micro-processor, but we gave meaning to the phrase "USER FRIENDLY!"

Utilizing the TI Home Computer

by Lawrence R. De Rusha, Jr.
President

International Home Computer
Users Association
P.O. Box 371

Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
(714) 756-4716

Running a club, whether it's a bridge club, model railroad organization, or a computer users group, requires a considerable amount of time and effort. The day-to-day tasks of the club, such as keeping the roster, doing the bookkeeping, or writing the club newsletter, can be done with the aid of the TI Home Computer. The time you save will allow you extra time for other important tasks, such as playing Munch Man.

One important software requirement for the organization is a data manager (not to be confused with Disk Manager). This type of program allows you to set up and maintain files such as the roster. Once the files have been set up, the program will take care of the housekeeping routines such as sorting, printing reports, making mail labels, and perhaps even performing some math computations. The Personal Record Keeping Module is an example of one type of data manager.

Next, an accounting program suitable for the size of your group is needed. In some cases the data manager may perform simple bookkeeping. If not, there are several third-party programs of various complexities available. The accounting program can speed up basic bookkeeping routines and can generally provide financial reports with little additional data.

Writing the club newsletter can be a chore with the standard typewriter. Oh, you say, TI doesn't have a word processor yet! This is true. (Editor's Note: The TI WRITER Word Processor will be available in the near future.) The editor program of TI's Editor/Assembler, however, can perform some of the basic functions of a word processor. This article is being written with the Editor/Assembler. If no one in the group has one, there are other text editors on the market that can perform your text-editing requirements.

This is just the beginning of the many possible time-saving applications that the Home Computer can perform for your group. You can also keep the club inventory with it, use it to schedule meetings, or communicate with other groups. Travel clubs can connect up to one of the information services and even get flight schedules and hotel reservations.

Save yourself time and energy by putting your Home Computer to work for you and your organization.

TI Computer Advantage Club Now Offers Four Programs

To meet the challenge of the expanding need for computer awareness, Texas Instruments cordially invites you and your family to enter the fascinating world of computers by joining the TI Computer Advantage Club which features "hands-on" training with a TI-99/4A Home Computer system. Programs are available for adults and for young people ages 8 and up. Training sessions are conducted by qualified instructors, and club members receive both small group and individualized instruction in computer operation and applications. Members will actually create computer programs and move quickly beyond familiar video games into an understanding of more important computer applications.

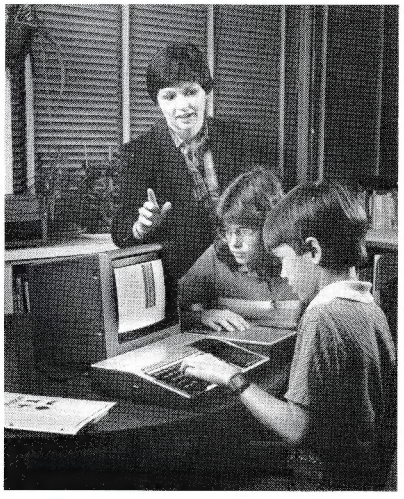
Membership includes:
- "Hands-On" Computer Experience
- TI Home Computer Activity Book
- Membership Card
- Quarterly Newsletters

There are four Fall 1982 programs. *Children's Computer Awareness Program* is a 10-hour course designed for youngsters, ages 8 to 15, with little or no prior exposure to computers. Tuition is $65 for the first child in a family ($55 for each additional child in the family). *Programming Discovery in TI LOGO* offers your child 10 hours of "hands-on" exposure to the most advanced educational programming language available. The curriculum is designed for children ages 8 to 15; tuition is $65.

Introduction to Home Computers for Adults is a three-hour course designed to give you a brief "hands-on" introduction to the exciting world of computing. Tuition is $25. *Adult Computer Awareness Program* (Level I) is a 10-hour "hands-on" computer experience designed to introduce you to the power, applications, fun, and excitement of the Home Computer. Tuition is $75.

Clubs are available in the following cities:
Atlanta
Baltimore
Boston
Buffalo
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Denver
Detroit
Houston
Long Island
Los Angeles
Miami
Minneapolis
New York
Orlando
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
San Diego
St. Louis
San Franciso
Seattle
Tampa
Washington, D. C.
and throughout New Jersey

For further information on registering, contact:
Texas Instruments Computer Advantage Club
P.O. Box 3261
Dallas, Texas 75286
or call toll-free 1-800-858-4069 (outside of Texas) or 1-800-692-1318 (within Texas)



The TI Computer Advantage Club now offers programs for adults as well as for youngsters.